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HONEY
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HONEY PRODUCTION AND TRADE

IN SPECIFIED COUNTRIES

Honey production in 1962 in 15 selected countries totaled 571 million pounds. This is 1.0 percent less than production in 1961, but 0.8 percent more than in 1960. The United States, Mexico, Argentina, and Australia are the world's largest producers. Mexico and Australia were the largest exporters in 1962, with the United States ranking third after almost doubling its 1961 exports. Western Germany accounted for about two-thirds of the imports of the 15 countries.

United States

Honey production in the United States has been on an upward trend, but the 1962 crop was slightly below that of 1961.

Imports have declined since 1960, while exports have been increasing. Exports in 1962 were almost double those for the previous year. The big market has been Western Germany. However, a large increase was made in shipments to France. Germany and France combined accounted for 72 percent of the 13.6 million pounds exported in 1962. The United States imported 7.1 million pounds of honey in 1962, most of which came from Mexico and Argentina.

Retail prices in the United States increased slightly in 1962. Extracted honey prices averaged 26.9 cents per pound retail in 1962 compared with 26.2 cents in 1961. Chunk honey sold for 35.6 cents compared with 34.9. Prices received by beekeepers for honey sold during 1962 averaged 17.4 cents per pound compared with the 1961 price of 18.0 cents.

This circular contains more detailed information than the summary of similar title published in the World Agricultural Production and Trade Statistical Report of September 1963.

Argentina

The 1962 honey crop in Argentina was at the same level as in the previous year. Drought conditions may reduce the size of the 1963 crop. Argentina was the major supplier of honey to the United States in 1960, but was second in this respect in 1961 and 1962.

Mexico

Mexico's 1962 honey crop was the highest of record. This large crop was mainly attributed to abundant rainfall in the state of Yucatan, the leading producer. The government continues to encourage honey production among small farmers; however, lack of funds has slowed up the plans. Exports established a record in 1962; amounting to about two-thirds of total production.

Mexico was the largest exporter to the United States in both 1961 and 1962. More than half of its exports, however, were to Western Germany.

West Germany

West Germany's production of honey in 1962 at 16.5 million pounds, was less than half of the production in 1960 and 1961. Imports increased to make up the difference and allow for greater consumption. Low yields per hive and reduced hive numbers accounted for the decreased production. Production in 1963 will probably be improved even though the number of hives has continued to decline. The December 1962 count indicated 1,250,000 hives, a decrease of 3.6 percent from 1961 and of 13.5 percent from the prewar average.

Imports in 1962 established a record. Major suppliers were Argentina and Mexico, with Australia the third largest source. The United States supplied 4.6 percent of total arrivals in 1962, compared with 4.1 percent in 1961. It should be noted that quantities in the free port areas or customs suspension storage were included in the 1962 import statistics, while in former years such quantities entered official listing only after customs clearance.

Australia

Australian honey production in 1962 increased over that in 1961, but did not reach the 1960 level. Exports increased markedly in 1962 and resulted in Australia being second only to Mexico in total exports. The increase was due to larger shipments to Western Germany. New South Wales is the largest producing state and Victoria the second largest.

Honey marketing for both domestic and export markets is conducted by a small number of organizations. There is a difference from state to state but Pools and Boards market much of the honey. Control of the domestic supply is relatively easy as there are only a few private firms in the honey trade.

Canada

Canada's honey production has been at or slightly above the 30-million-pound level for the past several years. In 1962 exports amounted to 3.6 million pounds and imports 622,000. The support price for white No. 1 grade extracted honey during July 1, 1961, to June 30, 1962 period was Canadian \$.135 per pound. Because the average price received by producers was only Canadian \$.126 per pound, the Agricultural Stabilization Board declared a deficiency payment of Canadian \$.009 per pound. Payments can be claimed by packing plants on behalf of the producers, and the Board will then pay eligible producers directly. Claims also can be made by producers who graded and packed their own honey and sold a minimum of 1,000 pounds to industrial, wholesale, and retail outlets during the support year.

France

Production of honey in France has remained at 26 million pounds since 1959, about 27 percent below the average production during the years 1956-60. About 30 percent of the total production enters commercial channels. France is a net importer of honey, although some exports are made. Spain and Argentina have been its biggest suppliers. Imports from the United States have been limited in recent years, as prices of honey from other countries have been lower. Honey imports into France were liberalized in February 1960; since then prices of French honey have declined somewhat, and some domestic producers have gone out of business.

Spain

Production of honey in Spain showed a slight increase in 1962 over 1961. There was a 5.6 percent decrease in the number of unmovable beehives and a 11.9 percent increase in the number of removable beehives.

The trend in the past few years has been toward fewer beehives but better management and increased yields of honey. The number of hives with removable sections has increased rapidly in recent years. Beehives of all types presently amount to about 1 million. Spain can be divided into three production areas: the Valencia area where citrus is produced; Castilla and Extremadura where a very fine, light honey is produced from thyme, rosemary, and spike-lavender; Galicia and Asturias where a darker, lower quality honey is produced. The bees are two types; which are Spanish (83.7 percent) and Italian (16.3 percent).

Italy

Adverse weather cut back the size of the 1962 crop in Italy. Dry weather in areas other than the southern regions and disease and pest damage to crops caused serious losses to apiaries. The number of queen bees in 1962 was estimated at about 30,000. About half of these were exported at prices unchanged from previous years (i.e., 500-600 lire each for common and 700-1,000 lire each for top quality queen bees - 625 lire = U.S.\$1.00). Argentina and Mexico were Italy's principal suppliers of honey in 1962.

Chile

Chilean honey production in 1962, at 14.3 million pounds, was only slightly ahead of 1961. Exports amounted to 6.6 million pounds, or 46 percent of production. Trade estimates for 1962 place golden honey production at 60 percent of the total and white honey at 40 percent. An additional 2.2 million pounds of dark honey was produced by "criolla" bees. This is not included in the production figures, as it does not enter commercial channels. Foreign marketing prospects are considered good, as Germany and Denmark have shown particular interest in Chile's honey.

New Zealand

Production of honey in New Zealand was up slightly in 1962, and quality was above average. Exports showed a marked increase in that year, particularly those to countries outside of the United Kingdom. Most of New Zealand's production is sold directly to consumers or to packers or distributors who supply honey to the retail trade. The sole exporting agency, the Honey Marketing Authority, receives the balance.

Austria

Austria had a slight decline in honey production in 1962. Production in that year totaled 7.9 million pounds and imports 7 million. Imports are partially subject to quantitative restriction; however, beginning January 1, 1963, those from the United States are subject to a simplified automatic licensing procedure by customs officials.

Guatemala

Official production statistics show a slight decline in Guatemala's honey production for 1961 and again in 1962. Many beekeepers had experienced serious losses as a result of the intensive spraying operations of the expanding cotton industry. Beekeepers are now relocating their operations in higher elevations with apparent better results. In 1962, Germany and the United States were the most important foreign markets for Guatemalan honey.

Switzerland

Honey production in Switzerland has declined in the past few years. Production in 1962 amounted to 1.3 million pounds, compared with 3.1 million in 1960. Imports totaled 7.1 million pounds in 1962, compared with 5.6 million in 1961 and 7.3 million in 1960. Mexico supplied two-thirds of Switzerland's imports in 1962.

HONEY: Production and trade for specified countries,
1960, 1961 and 1962

Countries	Production			Exports			Imports		
	1960	1961	1962 1/	1960	1961	1962 1/	1960	1961	1962 1/
	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000
	pounds	pounds	pounds	pounds	pounds	pounds	pounds	pounds	pounds
United States.....	257,956	273,792	272,256	9,394	7,151	13,645	12,363	9,042	7,111
Mexico.....	48,501	51,808	66,138	34,916	38,561	44,656	69	20	2
Argentina.....	45,194	44,092	44,092	41,379	28,981	30,000	4	2	-
Australia 2/.....	45,562	35,801	43,651	13,708	16,826	25,390	0	0	0
Canada.....	31,500	35,000	30,500	2,674	3,430	3,629	2,658	1,382	622
France.....	26,455	26,455	26,455	2,158	1,889	1,821	8,472	8,616	10,289
Spain.....	19,032	19,992	21,305	3,112	8,516	3,123	0	0	0
Germany, West.....	35,274	35,274	16,535	117	101	3/	83,054	81,591	107,333
Chile.....	13,228	14,109	14,330	6,603	5,040	6,614	0	0	0
New Zealand.....	12,199	12,275	13,171	945	1,612	2,110	0	0	0
Italy.....	15,432	13,228	8,818	22	136	210	1,486	2,280	2,139
Austria.....	8,377	8,157	7,937	76	3/	3/	4,899	5,734	7,046
Guatemala.....	3,660	3,439	3,219	6,544	6,384	6,985	0	0	0
Switzerland.....	3,148	2,077	1,323	3/	3/	9	7,344	5,646	7,101
Costa Rica.....	617	772	838	982	536	600	0	0	0
Total.....	566,135	576,271	570,568	122,630	119,163	138,792	120,349	114,313	141,643

1/ Preliminary.

2/ Crop-year beginning July of previous year.

3/ Negligible.

Foreign Agricultural Service. Prepared or estimated on the basis of official statistics of foreign governments, other foreign source materials, reports of U.S. Agricultural Attaches and Foreign Service Officers, results of office research, and related information.

HONEY: Major sources of U.S. imports, 1960, 1961 and 1962

Country of origin	1960	1961	1962
	<u>Pounds</u>	<u>Pounds</u>	<u>Pounds</u>
Argentina.....	7,043,108	2,765,807	2,382,097
Mexico.....	4,488,697	5,336,456	4,020,369
Guatemala.....	117,945	79,935	107,780
Dominican Republic.....	180,128	126,174	100,816
Canada.....	92,469	142,610	103,014
Greece.....	49,299	62,681	54,816
Spain.....	151,197	233,116	44,123
Germany, West.....	43,303	58,611	42,702
Australia.....	35,472	24,642	28,768
France.....	11,637	5,102	8,386
Netherlands.....	7,300	7,057	7,513
Poland.....	32,104	4,515	9,000
United Kingdom.....	10,977	12,618	4,746
Italy.....	6,758	2,350	4,339
All other countries.....	93,070	180,165	192,291
Total.....	12,363,464	9,041,839	7,110,760

Compiled from Bureau of the Census.

HONEY: Major countries of destination of U.S. exports
1960, 1961 and 1962

Country of destination	1960	1961	1962
	<u>Pounds</u>	<u>Pounds</u>	<u>Pounds</u>
Germany, West.....	4,751,899	3,563,292	6,593,360
France.....	238,416	128,983	3,276,194
Netherlands.....	436,301	340,656	749,218
Canada.....	1,941,516	927,304	657,986
United Kingdom.....	284,143	359,057	514,099
Belgium.....	849,117	679,192	488,865
Switzerland.....	243,060	287,400	245,215
Algeria.....	23,737	60,000	210,000
All other countries.....	625,342	804,671	911,130
Total.....	9,393,531	7,150,555	13,646,067

Compiled from Bureau of the Census.

HONEY: West German imports from major countries in
1960, 1961 and 1962

Country of origin	1960	1961	1962
	1,000	1,000	1,000
	<u>pounds</u>	<u>pounds</u>	<u>pounds</u>
Argentina.....	23,135	23,807	29,672
Mexico.....	19,694	19,454	28,658
Australia.....	4,773	4,594	14,537
Guatemala.....	3,571	4,672	5,946
United States.....	5,851	3,364	4,890
Cuba.....	5,004	5,480	3,347
Chile.....	2,668	3,920	3,247
Hungary.....	1,704	2,399	2,639
Rumania.....	732	1,815	2,324
Czechoslovakia.....	1,166	1,757	1,964
El Salvador.....	1,012	1,220	1,508
France.....	910	1,028	1,325
China, Mainland.....	7,665	3,964	1,305
Poland.....	401	842	844
Costa Rica.....	851	653	756
Others.....	3,917	2,622	4,371
Total.....	83,054	81,591	107,333

Foreign Agricultural Service: compiled from official
statistics.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

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